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Attorney Docket 065905/0249

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akinori IWASE et al.

Title: IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 10/073,894

Filing Date: 02/14/2002

Examiner: T. Nguyen

Art Unit: 3661

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2003

GROUP 3600

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56 and 37 CFR §1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form SB/08 is a listing of documents known to applicants in order to comply with applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. Copies of the listed documents are being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97-1.98.

The submission of such a document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE AND FEE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) prior to the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(c), a statement or fee is required. The required fee as set forth in § 1.17(p) is enclosed.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

Documents A1-A7 are described in the present specification. Documents A1-A7 are in Japanese. The relevance can be found in the specification.

An English translation of documents A1-A7 are not readily available; however, English language abstracts are provided herewith. The absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 24, 2003

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.